

By Bill Lambrecht, St. Louis Post-Dispatch
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WASHINGTON - If you're looking for faces in tonight's televised State of the Union address, don't expect to see Rep. Russ Carnahan's.

Carnahan, D-St. Louis, will be hopping on a plane later this afternoon and heading back to St. Louis, intent on cozier environs for President Barack Obama's big speech.

Carnahan said he received a letter this week from a local teacher, Mary Jo Clark, whose husband and daughter are unemployed. What's more, her family is having trouble finding health insurance because of increasing costs of coverage and pre-existing health problems.

You guessed it: Carnahan will be watching the speech at Clark's home.

Carnahan said in a statement that the State of the Union has lots of fanfare and anticipation about new policies but "to me it's more important to understand how those policies will impact the hard-working people back home ..."

Ed Martin, a Republican who has hopes of unseating Carnahan in November, sent us a statement with regard to Carnahan's trip home. It reads, in part:

"Congressman Carnahan should not need to slip in and out of St. Louis in mufti for a clandestine meeting as if a trench-coated agent in some Cold War spy novel."

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